

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 9 July 1948

SUBJECT

Alleged Russian Propaganda Plans and Directives

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1. On 30 and 31 May 1948 a confidential meeting of SED press and personnel officials was held in Berlin, at which it was alleged that "weighty decisions of Moscow policy" require that propaganda in Germany lay emphasis on the following topics during the coming weeks:
2. The question of the occupation of Germany. Especially effective material, it is hoped, can be derived from a suggestion that the occupation of Germany be terminated. This proposal is to be contrasted with the "occupation statute" advocated by the SPD in the western zones. The occupation statute must be presented as a method of perpetuating foreign rule on German soil; the Soviet Union, on the other hand, will not only refuse to support this attempt, but will reply with a proposal that the occupying troops should be withdrawn. The withdrawal of the troops would be advantageous for the Communists, because the area of Russian influence extends over all the countries with a "people's democracy" and far into Europe, and because the system of Communist tactics has created an organization which eliminates any danger of counter-action. If the Western powers actually evacuate Germany, they will have no way of bringing their influence to bear; and for this reason they have devised the notion of an occupation statute as a protection against the influence of Soviet policy. Propaganda against the statute will therefore use the argument that it aims to subdue Germany permanently and constitutionally under a foreign capitalist overlordship. Such an argument, it is believed, will be eminently successful in view of the hostile attitude of most Germans toward all the occupying powers.

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(Comment: This line has already begun to appear in the Russian-sponsored press.)

3. National resistance. In the eventuality of a unilateral settlement for western Germany, such as a West German government, it may be expected that a form of "national resistance" will be proclaimed. The People's Congress and the People's Council have been instructed to lead this campaign, which will mobilize the population of Berlin and extensive groups in the western zones, in addition to the inevitable participation of the Eastern Zone. The idea of a "national resistance", however, is not to be used for the present, but is to be brought forth when it seems likely to be most effective.

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